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We claim:

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a34* A seating assembly for a vehicle (40), comprising a front seat assembly (54) having a front seat bottom (52), the front seat bottom (52) including a front portion and a rear portion, a rear seat assembly (10) having a rear seat bottom (14), and a track member (28) connectable to a floor portion (38) of the vehicle (40), the seating assembly characterized by an articulation mechanism (24) pivotally coupled to the rear seat bottom (14) and slidably coupled to the track member (28), a support member (82) connected to the front seat bottom (52) and connectable to the vehicle (40), the support member (82) supporting the rear portion of the front seat bottom (52) from the vehicle (40) to provide a storage space beneath the front seat bottom (52), and the rear seat bottom (14) configured to pivotally move on the articulating mechanism (24) and to slidably move on the track member (28) between a use position and a stored position where the rear seat bottom (14) is within the storage space.

2 The seating assembly of Claim 1 wherein said support member (82) is connectable to a first side panel (86) of the vehicle (40), and said support member (82) extends from said side panel (86) to said front seat bottom (52).

3. The seating assembly of Claim 2 further comprising a second front seat bottom (52), and wherein said support member (82) is connected to said second front seat bottom (52).

4. The seating assembly of Claim 3 wherein said support member (82) is connectable to a second side panel (88) of the vehicle (40), and said support member (82) extends from the first side panel (86) to the second side panel (88).

5. The seating assembly of Claim 2 further comprising a center console (102), and wherein said support member (82) is connected to said center console (102).

6. The seating assembly of Claim 1 further comprising a front riser (90) connected to said front portion of said front seat bottom (52) and connectable to the vehicle (40), and wherein said support member (82) is connected to said rear portion of said front seat bottom (52).

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7. The seating assembly of Claim 6 wherein said front seat bottom (52) includes an adjustment mechanism (94) connected to said front riser (90) and to said support member (82), wherein said adjustment mechanism (94) allows horizontal movement of said front seat bottom (52).

8. The seating assembly of Claim 1 further comprising a front seat back connected to said front seat bottom (52).

9. A rear seat assembly 10 adapted for storage in cooperation with a front seat assembly (54) having a front seat bottom (52) and a front seat back in a vehicle (40), the rear seat assembly (10) having a rear seat bottom (14) connectable to the vehicle (40) for movement between a use position and an intermediate position, the rear seat assembly (10) characterized by an articulation mechanism (24) connectable to the rear seat bottom (14) and to the vehicle (40) and including a forward lift arm (16, 18) and a rearward lift arm (20, 22) that cooperate with the rear seat bottom (14) and the vehicle (40) as a four bar linkage to allow vertical and horizontal pivoting movement of the rear seat bottom (14) between the use position and the intermediate position, a biasing device (30, 56) connectable to the forward lift arm (16, 18) and the rearward lift arm (20, 22), and a slide mechanism (26) connectable to the articulation device (24) and the vehicle (40), wherein the slide mechanism (26) allows fore-and-aft horizontal movement of the rear seat bottom (14) between the intermediate position and a stored position beneath the front seat bottom (52).

10. The rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 9 wherein said biasing device (30, 56) biases said rear seat bottom (14) out of the use position.

11. The rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 10 wherein said biasing device (30, 56) also biases said rear seat bottom (14) out of the intermediate position.

12. The rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 11 further comprising a first latching device (58) connected to said rear seat bottom (14) and selectively engageable with the vehicle (40) to hold said rear seat bottom (14) in the use position.

13. The rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 12 further comprising a second latching device (64) connected to said rear seat bottom (14) and selectively engageable with said

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forward lift arm (16, 18) to hold said rear seat bottom (14) among the intermediate position and the stored position; and a release handle (68) connected to said first latching device (58) and to said second latching device (64) to simultaneously actuate said first latching device (58) and said second latching device (64).

14. The rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 9 further comprising a third latching device (70) connected to said slide mechanism (26) having a first hook (72) extending in a forward direction and a second hook (74) extending in a rearward direction, wherein said first hook (72) is selectively engageable with the vehicle (40) to hold said rear seat bottom (14) in the stored position, and said second hook (74) is selectively engageable with the vehicle (40) to hold said rear seat bottom (14) among the intermediate position and the use position.

15. The rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 9 further comprising a rear seat back (12) connected to said rear seat bottom (14) and connectable to the vehicle (40) for movement between the use position and the stored position such that, when said rear seat back (12) is moved from the use position to the stored position, said rear seat back (12) abuts the front seat back of the front seat assembly (54).

16. A front seat assembly (54) and a rear seat assembly (10) for a vehicle (40), comprising a front seat bottom (52) having a front portion and a rear portion, a rear seat bottom (14) connectable to the vehicle (40) for movement between a use position and an intermediate position, the front seat assembly (54) and the rear seat assembly (10) characterized by an articulation mechanism (24) connectable to the rear seat bottom (14) and to the vehicle (40) and including a forward lift arm (16, 18) and a rearward lift arm (20, 22) that cooperate with the rear seat bottom (14) and the vehicle (40) as a four bar linkage to allow vertical and horizontal pivoting movement of the rear seat bottom (14) through the use position and the intermediate position, a biasing device (30, 56) connectable to the forward lift arm (16, 18) and the rearward lift arm (20, 22), a support member (82) connected to the front seat bottom (52) and connectable to the vehicle (40), the support member (82) supporting the rear portion of the front seat bottom (52) from the vehicle (40) to provide a stored position beneath the front seat bottom (52), and a slide mechanism (26) connectable to the articulation mechanism (24) and the vehicle (40), wherein the slide mechanism (26) allows fore-and-aft horizontal movement of the rear seat bottom (14) through the intermediate position and the stored position.

17. The front seat assembly (54) and the rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 16 wherein said support member (82) is connectable to a first side panel (86) of the vehicle (40), and said support member (82) extends from said side panel (86) to said front seat bottom (52).

18. The front seat assembly (54) and the rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 17 further comprising a second front seat bottom (52), and wherein said support member (82) is connected to said second front seat bottom (52).

19. The front seat assembly (54) and the rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 18 wherein said support member (82) is connectable to a second side panel (88) of the vehicle (40), and said support member (82) extends from the first side panel (86) to the second side panel (88).

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20. The front seat assembly (54) and the rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 17 further comprising a center console (102), and wherein said support member (82) is connected to said center console (102).

21. The front seat assembly (54) and the rear seat assembly (10) of Claim 16 wherein the front seat assembly (54) is adjustable fore-and-aft on the support member (82) when the rear seat bottom (14) is in the use position or the stored position.

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